



**California Department of
Pesticide Regulation**

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Environmental Monitoring
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Fiscal Operations
916-324-1350

Information Technology
916-445-4110

Medical Toxicology
916-445-4233

Mill Assessment
916-445-4159

**Pest Management
and Licensing**
916-445-3914

Licensing/Certification
916-445-4038

Personnel
916-322-4553

Pesticide Registration
916-445-4400

Worker Health and Safety
916-445-4222

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW about

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

IPM Innovator Awards

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has given out about 100 IPM Innovator awards to honor California organizations that emphasize pest prevention, favor least-hazardous pest management, and share their successful strategies with others. The awards provide rare public recognition to groups and individuals who are quietly revolutionizing pest management through their efforts to reduce risks associated with pesticide use.

IPM — integrated pest management — works with nature to encourage beneficial plants and animals while making it difficult for pests to survive.

DPR's IPM Innovator awards are part of a comprehensive, reduced-risk pest management strategy aimed at homes, schools, farms, and the environment.

Demonstrating Leadership

In 1994, DPR presented its first IPM Innovator awards to acknowledge agricultural and urban organizations demonstrating leadership and creativity in new methods of pest management. DPR hosts an annual event where the Innovators are recognized.

DPR developed the program to recognize pioneering pest control managers for their leadership in voluntarily implementing reduced-risk pest management systems and for their work in sharing those solutions with others.

An IPM Innovator typically has a history of using pest management systems to reduce the risks posed by the use of traditional control practices, showing that their pest management concept is economically viable, and documenting and sharing that system so others can learn and apply the information to their situation.

Relying on a Systems Approach

IPM Innovators typically rely on pest management systems based on sound scientific principles of IPM, including a preference for using beneficial organisms and cultural practices for pest control when feasible. Pest problems are addressed as part of the overall situation, rather than pest by pest or at only one time of the year.

IPM Innovators often conduct research to find new ways for managing pests. This may include a range of activities from contracted research with academic institutions to on-site trials of participant-identified techniques.

The organizational structure of the IPM Innovator may be very formal, such as a commodity advisory board, a resource conservation district, or a school district, or it may be less formal, such as a community organization that promotes reduced-risk pest management. Many successful IPM Innovators also have representatives from federal, state, or

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local government, academia, and the business community as advisors to or as members of their organization.

In addition, many IPM Innovators have a well-developed organization — and an educational component responsible for coordinating and working with participants to encourage the sharing of ideas and information. Many Innovators provide training and educational programs for participants. Their outreach programs identify potential new participants and encourage them to join the system. In fact, several of these IPM Innovators went on to receive funds from DPR's Pest Management Alliance Grants Program, which allowed them to further increase sharing of ideas and information. (The grants program has been suspended because of budget constraints.)

Nominating an Innovator

Early each year, DPR solicits nominations for IPM Innovator awards. DPR looks for several characteristics to identify these exceptional achievers in pest management (*see box below*).

If you would like to nominate your organization or another group or organization as an IPM Innovator, please complete the nomination form by March 31. The nomination form is on DPR's Web site. Go to www.cdpr.ca.gov and click on the "A-Z" Index on the left side of the page. Scroll down to "IPM Innovator Awards" and click that. You will find not only a link to the nomination form but also previous award recipients and a short description of each group.

To find out more about the IPM Innovators Program or DPR's other pest management programs, you can also contact:

IPM Innovators Program
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WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN IPM INNOVATOR NOMINEE:

- **A pest management systems approach based on preferential use of cultural practices, beneficial organisms and other scientific principles of IPM that reduce risk.**
- **An organizational structure that allows for research and the continued development of new ideas.**
- **Education and outreach that encourages the sharing of ideas and information.**
- **An administrative organization that unifies and supports the collective efforts of participants and provides opportunities to expand the number of participants.**

